

HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917
Vol. 14 No. 4 - April, 2006

PREZ LETTER

This month I'd like to pick-up on a theme from a very well written letter by Bob W9EH recently published in Sherm's KB9Q's weekly epistle.

"If You Need Me, I'll be there," he said.

Basically, the process requirements that our own Emergency Coordinating appendage has added to simply providing communications in times of emergency have grown out of proportion and made the whole thing as cumbersome as the Government processes that we are trying to support.

Let's consider the concept of a back up system or process. What is it supposed to do? Simply put "it is supposed to function when the primary system has failed for whatever reason."

There are many levels of back-up systems - for NASA it is full redundancy several times over, for me in my work shop it means a handsaw instead of my table saw. It takes me longer, the cut isn't as precise, but I know that if my table saw fails, I'll still be able to cut wood. I have a drill press, allows me to make very precise holes for furniture and other projects. It has attachments that allow for cutting grooves, fine shapes and special designs. In an emergency, I don't need the fancy design. I need the hole in the wood. I have a hand drill that will do that and if power fails, I have one with a battery. When that runs out, I have an awl.

My point is that some of the technology and process requirements that we are placing on ourselves (no one else is doing it) are putting us in jeopardy of not being able to do our job right. When the new toy that we have just learned how to use fails for the same reason that the local infrastructure has failed, then we are left without a

back up and with out the volunteers that are ready to use the awl and dig us out of the communications hole we have put ourselves into.

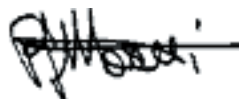
Let's reconsider the concept of a back up system or process. What was it supposed to do? Was it: "XXX function when the primary system has failed for what ever reason?" Then this means for our Amateur Radio Community, that within our capability, we should provide a means of communications and the personnel to handle it.

The KISS principle applies. Yes it is "nice" to be able to pinpoint the location of a victim with accurate position reporting systems for the various resources that can be put to bear on a rescue - nice - but not necessary. I sometimes think that some of these emergency requirements for extra fancy tools are just our poor attempts at justifying the purchase of these "expensive" toys. No amount of toys is going to replace good use of language and proficiency at using your own equipment.

I admire the use of repeaters as a training ground in "net-control" processes. The MRC and other repeater clubs in this area provide chances for inexperienced operators to handle traffic and control communication sequences. Good training!

• Just this in closing - if we create for ourselves a control and system infrastructure that is as complicated as the ones we are trying to back-up - then we are as doomed to failure as they are.

73,



Patrick, W9UQ

MRAC Officers

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Patrick Moretti	W9UQ
Vice President	
Howard Parks	AB9FH
Secretary	
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Dick Wood ('05-'07)	W9JBE

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NETS HEARD IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY			
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	145.1300 ARRL voice news
Daily	5:15-6:00 AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net	Wed.	8:00 PM	147.2700 Weather & Swap Net
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)	Thu.	9:00 PM	50.1600 6 m. SSB Net
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net	Thu.	9:00 PM	146.9100- Computer Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	Fri	8:00 PM	28.4900 MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net	Fri.	9:00 PM	145.3900- W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net
Mon.	8:45 PM	147.1650	ARRL voice news (ARES)	Sat	9:00 PM	146.9100- Saturday Night Fun Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	8:30 AM	3.9850 QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun.	9:00 AM	145.5650 X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net	Sun.	10:00 AM	443.8000 FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)			SWAPnet
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	8:00 PM	146.9100- Information Net
				Sun.	9:00 PM	146.9100- Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

HAMATEUR CHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

EINSTEIN ON WIRELESS

The wireless telegraph is not difficult to understand. The ordinary telegraph is like a very long cat. You pull the tail in New York, and it meows in Los Angeles. The wireless is the same, only without the cat. _

-- Albert Einstein

CREDITS

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

WB9BWP WB9PTC K9RYW
K9LCQ KF9PU W9UQ

Our thanks go

Rita Doneis, Hal Newton, and Tom Fuszard, for proofreading the 'Chatter this month.

Dick Wood, for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter.

Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.



Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, and Tom Fuszard who manage our VEC.

**Thank
YOU!**

On behalf of Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, I'd like to thank John Kraak for all his hard work on our behalf of our VEC the past seven years.

He will be missed.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 3/30/06

There were 69 members and visitors in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Patrick welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The microphone was passed for all present to introduce themselves.

NOTE: At the board meeting on Monday the 27th it was decided that Gordon West would be allowed to give his talk first.

Patrick, W9UQ, announced that the results of the FM simplex contest would be announced and then Gordon West would give his talk.

Joe, N9UX, announced the results of the FM Simplex contest as follows:

Warren, K9IZV, 1st Place mobile
Ken, W9GA, 1st Place base
Charles, KC9IIV, 1st Place - HT
Jeff, K9VS, High Score - 2 m
Larry, KC9IJA, High Score 70 cm
Jack, N9XRO, High Score -6 m
Badger Contesters, High Score - Club

Patrick then asked Dave, WB9BWP, to explain how Gordon West was invited to the meeting. Dave introduced Gordon West.

Brian, K9LCQ, read the February membership meeting minutes.

There were no additions or corrections.

A motion was to accept the minutes as read. by Joe, N9UX, seconded by Pancho, KA9OFA.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Patrick, W9UQ, read the treasurer's report for February.

There were no additions or corrections.

Howard, AB9FH, made a motion to accept the report and Pancho, KA9OFA, seconded it.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

No buzz talk.

Old Business:

Code Practice On the Air: Buck K9RYW and Bob, W9CYI have taken up the CWOTA and have added a Wednesday night session as well that will be handled by Dick, WB9PTC, to teach the code.

VEC Report:

Tom KF9PU reported that John KF9XL

has stepped down as chairman of the MRAC VEC. Mark AB9CD and Tom KG9EE will be assuming the chairman's duties.

Tom updated the members on current VEC issues.

Patrick repeated a call for a nomination chairman for May.

Patrick repeated a call for a Field Day chairman for June. No response.

The club will have a table at SuperFest. Volunteers are needed to man the table.

No new business.

A motion was made by Pancho, KA9OFA, to adjourn and was seconded by Charles, KC9IIV.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian K9LCQ

Brian White K9LCQ – Secretary

GOVERNOR DOYLE SIGNS PROCLAMATION

Governor Doyle signed the Proclamation designating June 24, 25, as Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Days. He was very cordial to the Amateurs in attendance (KC9HHX, KG9NG, N9ROY, N9TWA, and W9IXG) and expressed his gratitude on behalf of the citizens for the services we provide the State.

He solemnly read aloud the entire proclamation before signing it. The proclamation is now on display at Wisconsin Emergency Management in Madison.

A photo of the event at the Capital is on the Wisconsin ARRL website.

<https://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=WI>.



Photo of Milwaukee City Hall taken on May 17, 1982

W1AW OPERATING SCHEDULE

W1AW 2006 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1400 UTC to 1600 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM ET)

1700 UTC to 1945 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET)

(Station closed 1600 to 1700 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM ET))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2000 UTC (4 PM ET)	Cwf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2000 "	Cws	Tue, Thu
2100 "(5 PM ET)	Cwb	Daily
2200 "(6 PM ET)	RTTY	Daily
2300 "(7 PM ET)	Cws	Mon, Wed, Fri
2300 "	Cwf	Tue, Thu
0000 "(8 PM ET)	Cwb	Daily
0100 "(9 PM ET)	RTTY	Daily
0145 "(9:45 PM ET)	VOICE	Daily
0200 "(10 PM ET)	Cwf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0200 "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0300 "(11 PM ET)	Cwb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW:	1.8175,	3.5815,	7.0475,	14.0475,	18.0975,	21.0675,	28.0675,	147.555
RTTY:	3.625	7.095	14.095,	8.1025	21.095	28.095	147.555	
VOICE:	1.855	3.990	7.290	14.290	18.160	21.390	28.590	147.555

Notes:

Cws = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5 7.5 10 13 and 15 WPM

Cwf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35 30 25 20 15 13 and 10 WPM

CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CWbulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC

(100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2230 UTC (6:30 PM ET), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between

0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Thursdays and 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1400 UTC to 1600 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM ET), and then from 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

The complete W1AW Operating Schedule may be found on page 96 in the March 2006 issue of QST or on the web at:

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>.

OTA CW CLASSES

- Buck, K9RYW, and Bob, W9CYI, are still holding "On The Air" code lessons/practice sessions. The class/practice is held on **Monday and Friday at 6:00 p.m.** on our repeater.

- Dick, WB9PTC, is also teaching a beginner's class on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

- They need more feedback from the listeners and participants to know if they are getting it and to know how to improve the lessons. If you can, check in so they have an idea how many are participating/listening and how to adjust the sessions.



REMINDERS!

- Please check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

- Our **ten meter SSB net** is at **8:00 p.m. at 28.490 MHz USB.**

- Our **two meter FM net** follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at **145.390 MHz** with a minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**

- Join us for **Saturday morning breakfast** at **Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr.** We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us.

EVENTS

MARA SwapFest *

SAT. - APR. 22, 2006

Mandt Community Center
Stoughton, WI

T/I on 147.15 (123.0 Hz pl)

MRAC General Meeting

Thu. - April, 27, 2006

7:00 P.M.

Nominations for Election
of Officers

Central Wisconsin SwapFest

SAT. - APR. 29, 2006

Unity Memorial Hall
Unity, WI

T/I on 147.75/147.15, Medford rpt

Cedarburg SwapFest

SAT. - MAY 6, 2006

Circle B Recreation Center
Cedarburg, WI



DEKALB HamFest

Sun. - May 7, 2006

Sandwich Fairgrounds
Sandwich, IL

T/I on 147.730- (100Hz pl)
or 146.52 Mhz simp.

DAYTON HAMVENTION

Fri., Sat, & Sun - May 19, 20 and 21 2006

Dayton, OH

Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Days
Sat. & Sun. - Apr 24 & 25, 2006

ARRL Field Day

Sat. - Sun., Jun. 24 & 25, 2006

Pioneer Village

10 mi. north of Cedarburg
on Hwy "T"

Princeton HamFest

SAT.-SUN. - JUN 3 & 4, 2006

Bureau Co. Fairgrounds
Princeton, IL

T/I on 146.955 - MHz (103.5 PL)

SMARC SwapFest * ?

SAT. - JUL. 8, 2006

American Legion Post 434
Oak Creek, WI

* indicates VE testing
is available.

EXAM RESULTS

We had a really good session on April 1. A total of 29 candidates attended the session. Of those, 15 were successful in obtaining a new license or in upgrading. One individual even went the distance. He took all four exams and left the room with an Extra Class license. (Just as MRAC member Ken Hahn did several months ago.)

VEs who assisted with this session include:

Tom Czaja KG9EE
Mark Tellier AB9CD
Kent Christiansen N9WH
Hal Newton KB9OZN
Les Hundt AB9EY
Ken Hahn WK9H
Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
Ken Eggert W9MOT
Mark Bye KB9LDX
Bernie Golownia AA9CI

Our next session will be held at AES on **Saturday, April 29**. We'll begin testing at 9:30, and administer the last exam no later than 11:15. Please mention this to anyone you know who is ready to take an exam.

73,

Tom, KF9PU

UPCOMING MRAC PROGRAMS

Projected Upcoming programs for MRAC will include:

April 27th meeting will feature Tom Schulte - AB9EK who will be talking about "**Decoding Weather Satellites**".

We will also be taking **Nominations** for the Election of officers and two seats on the Board of Directors at this meeting. So, think about who you'd like to see sitting in the seats of POWER in our club. Maybe, you?.

May 25th meeting will be **election of officers** and our **Annual Auction**.

June 29th meeting will come almost a week after Field Day, so we will discuss how Field Day went.

EXAM SCHEDULE

MRAC VEC A Exam Schedule
Spring & Summer 2006

Sat., Apr. 29, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES

Sat., May 27, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES

Sat., July 29, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES

AES = Amateur Electronic Supply

5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

73,

John, KF9XL



The **next meeting of MRAC**
will be **Thursday, April 27, 2006**
at **7:00 p.m.**

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

**Our Repeater,
Talk it up.
145.390- MHz
(127.3Hz pl)**

**Our program
for the
April 27th meeting
will be about
Decoding Weather
Satellites
by
Tom Schulte - AB9EK**

Visit our new website at: **www.w9rh.org**

Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**
332-6 7 2 2



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